GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:495
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
PROBLEMS OF COTTON GROWERS
SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Government to resolve the problems of cotton growers of the country;

(b) whether the production of cotton is declining sharply in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the cotton produced in the country during the last three years;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to develop the hybrid seeds after having banned the use of BT Cotton like; and

(e) the present position of India in the World in the field of cotton production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz.Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in the country through which concerted efforts are made to resolve the problems of the cotton growers of the country. Besides, in case of fall in price cotton is purchased by Cotton Corporation of India at minimum support price.

(b)&(c): The cotton production during the last 3 years was to the tune of 122.87 lakh bales in 1998-99, 115.30 lakh bales in 1999-2000 and 96.52 lakh bales in 2000-2001. The reason attributed to this decline in production were incidence of pest and diseases and adverse agro climatic conditions during these years.

(d): The development of cotton hybrids is being undertaken by Indian Council of AgriculturalResearch (ICAR) and through the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project havingcentres at different State Agricultural Universities in the country. At these centres efforts are being made to develop conventional hybrids as well as hybrids based on Genetic male Sterility(GMS) and Cytoplasmic Male Sterility (CMS) systems.

(e): India stands third in the world in the field of cotton production after China and USA.